Special 30

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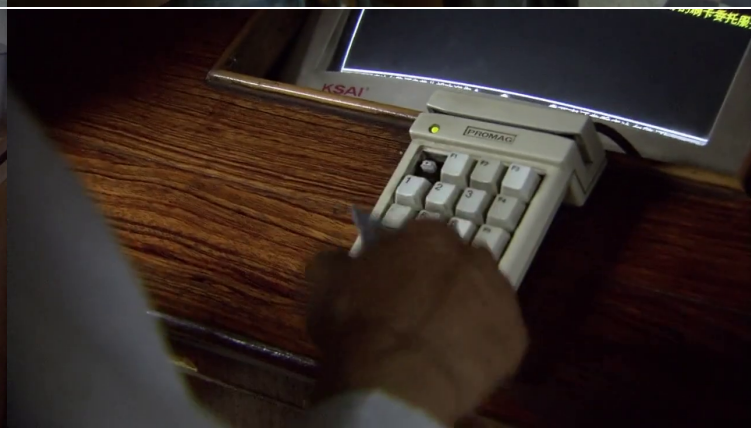
Draft

CHINESE HISTORY : THE STOCK EXCHANGE PLACE

The institution of the Chinese stock exchange parlor reunites in the same place lunch, ping pong and investment/gambling. Further : traditional tea on the stands, newspapers (reading in public), etc.



For illustration, above, are images[1] from the South Western Stock Exchange in Chongqing, "the fastest growing city on the planet", aimed to become "the financial capital of Western China". Visited by hundreds of its residents regularly. Public is both male and female, young adults and old.

This locale is reminiscent of older (gambling or gaming) places, where dice or Backgammon were played. And, in Japan for example, one thinks of classic arcades that range from candy shops to restaurants including tables with in-built cabinets.

Brands that appear here we were able to identify include KSAI, established 1993 in Shenzhen, mainly a maker of computer monitors (CRT, as featured here, later LCD...).

Promag is, e.g., the maker of programmable keyboards[2] - perhaps corresponding to what is shown (i.e. programmed for the purpose of stock exchange applications) - and RFID card readers[3], among others.[4]

Chongqing is a noteworthy example being a little covered, though futuristic, mainland China city : as opposed to perenial Hong Kong, or if one is lucky Shenzhen coverage as alternative...[5] The city seems to be caught in a perpetual fog; likely due to constant construction.

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[1]Extracted from the documentary *The Ascent of Money* (2008). Beginning circa minutes 33-34. Episode 6 ("Safe as houses"), which strikes us as ahead of its time (for reasons we try to state, i.e. coverage of futuristic mainland China far away from the obvious examples, being the HK-Shenzhen zone...). It is worth noting that the historian - Niall Ferguson (Cambridge educated, Harvard professor) - worked on another series : *Civilization: Is the West History?* (2011) whose first episode starts in China's 1400s, Ming...

[2]Header : "*84 Keys programmable mechanical keyboard by Promag*". The official title of this product, as shown on its front, is 84Keys Programmable Keyboard. Signal lights : Layer, Num Lock, Caps Lock. The device is black, almost square. Price : PHP 1,500 (25 US Dollars circa).

[3]Header : "*RFID Card Reader Plug & Play (Promag)*". Description : "*Plug & Play USB Human interface, 125KHz, progammable output. NTC Type Approve Device*". Price : PHP 5,500 (90 USD). The accessory is white, with a grey USB cable, a blue oval element — button? — on the front and two (green) lights on its sides.

[4]We were able to find several Promag products for sale on the online marketplace Carousell in the Philippines, www.carousell.ph (/p/rfid-card-reader-plug-play-promag-1045588366/ and /p/84-keys-programmable-mechanical-keyboard-by-promag-1439176504/).

[5]The narration of the BBC documentary puts this otherwise, elegantly : "... on the banks of the mighty River Yangtze, is deep in the heart of the Middle Kingdom, over a thousand miles from the coastal enterprise zones most Westerners visit."

The city includes Xiyong Park or full "Xiyong Micro-Electronics Industrial Park" (official denomations).[1] Companies that are part of the "comprehensive bonded zone" are for example Foxconn and South Korean Hynix.

柯赛
柯 (ke) : axe handle; stem (of a plant) or branch
赛 (sai) : game, match, competition, contest...

西永微电园
西永 Xiyong (Xichong)
微电 microelectronic [microelectric] (微 micro 电 electric)
园 park

Ref.

https://baike.baidu.com/en/item/Foxconn%20Technology%20Group%20Chongqing%20Technology%20Park/93284

https://www.skhynix.com/company/UI-FR-CP06/

[1] As featured on e.g. banners, possibly then announcing its development. Brief views in the cited documentary beginning minute 36, though it does not mention it explicitely. (It was opened a year or two later...)